tree, affording another, more obstructed view.

According to recent literature (e.g. Schmidl 1982), this appears to be the first record for the Serengeti National Park.

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SUCCESSFUL BREEDING OF GREATER FLAMINGO *PHOENICOPTERUS RUBER* AT LAKE NAKURU, KENYA

Greater Flamingos breed irregularly at several lakes in East Africa. At Lake Nakuru from 1951-71, flamingos attempted breeding - unsuccessfully - only once, in 1963 (Brown *et al.* 1973). No further breeding was observed there after 1971 (Vareschi 1978, D. Schmidl and P. Wirtz pers. comm., and authors' obs.). The only recorded successful breeding by the Greater Flamingo took place in 1915 and 1936 (Meinertzhagen 1958).

Numbers of Lesser (*Phoeniconaias minor*) and Greater Flamingos declined to a few hundreds by early 1980 and continued to be low until 1982, when numbers increased rapidly in May and June to between 200 000 and 500 000. In the meantime large numbers of Lesser Flamingos gathered at Lake Bogoria where they attempted to breed from December 1980 to June 1981. However, no fledglings were recorded. All breeding attempts failed, obviously due to the slowly falling water level and/or to disturbance through tourists walking too close to the colony.

After the flamingos returned to Lake Nakuru they were always present in great numbers, and at least the Greater bred there successfully early in 1983. The first two grey downy chicks were seen on 27 March near the causeway at the southern end of the lake. On 3 April 35-40 downy chicks were seen below Lion Hill Camp and 15 others were seen on 6th at the north shore. The two downy chicks seen first were still following their parents, which constantly gave contact calls, and one of the young on 3rd was seen to be fed by a Greater Flamingo. Among the grey young no distinctly lighter ones were seen (lighter coloured chicks might have indicated successful breeding of the smaller species (Brown 1955)).

Small groups of Lesser and Greater Flamingos engaged in nest-building around the lake until at least mid June. The largest concentration was near the main gate of the Park where, on 5 June, one egg was seen in a nest after the flamingos had been disturbed by tourists walking too close to the colony. In June, however, the water level had receded noticeably and most nests were no longer surrounded by water, making another successful breeding most unlikely.

All young were seen far away from any nesting colony, which means they were at least 10 d old, perhaps even 1-2 weeks older. Given an approximate incubation period of 30 d (Bauer & Glutz 1966), eggs must have been laid no later than the first half of February, or even in late January 1983. The fairly constant water level from July 1982 to March 1983 was certainly conducive to this successful breeding of flamingos at Lake Nakuru, the first recorded since 1951. It is astonishing that breeding succeeded despite the many Marabous *Leptoptilos crumeniferus* which are attracted to the lake in large numbers by the open rubbish dumps of Lake Nakuru Lodge.

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UNUSUAL PREY OF LIZARD BUZZARD *KAUPIFALCO MONOGRAMMICUS*

Brown *et al.* (1982) summarize the diet of the Lizard Buzzard as consisting mainly of insects and small reptiles, amphibians and mammals; molluscs, arachnids and small birds are also occasionally taken. The following observation, submitted in response to requests for data for the Kenyan bird atlas (Lewis & Pomeroy in prep.), therefore appears highly unusual.

On 21 December 1982, while driving through plantations along the southern side of the entrance of Kilifi Creek (3.39S, 39.52E) in coastal Kenya, E. Culwick and G.G. Gynn flushed a Lizard Buzzard that was feeding on a White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* on the track. The raptor was heavily burdened by this unusually large prey, and just managed to fly with it to the low branch of a nearby tree, where it continued feeding; clear views in this exposed position allowed positive identification of both species. In view of the coucal's somewhat sluggish habits and the fact that the two birds were first observed on a motorable track, the slight possibility must remain that the raptor did not actually kill this large prey but found it as a recent road-kill; however, the standard reference literature makes no mention of the Lizard Buzzard taking already dead items.

I am very grateful to the observers for the use of their unpublished observations.

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